

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

LOCAL WATER PROTECTION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2008) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2008

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Local Water Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 319(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329(j)) is amended by striking “subsections (h) and (i) not to exceed” and all that follows through “fiscal year 1991” and inserting “subsections (h) and (i) \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2008. H.R. 2008 is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize appropriations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management grants program. I would like to thank my colleagues, Ms. CRAIG from Minnesota and Mr. MAST from Florida, for introducing this bill.

Nonpoint sources of water pollution come from many diffuse sources, including runoff from farms, managed forests, and urban areas. This runoff can carry pollutants, such as fertilizers and sediment from fields and lawns, toxins from abandoned mines, and oils and heavy metals from roads into lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Nationally, some 55 percent of assessed rivers and streams currently do not meet State water quality standards.

The Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972 to restore and maintain the chem-

ical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. In 1987, the Clean Water Act was amended to add section 319 to create a non-regulatory program through which EPA administers annual grants to help States develop and implement their own programs for managing nonpoint sources of water pollution.

Under EPA's 319 program, States retain the primary role for addressing nonpoint source water pollution, which they do largely through voluntary means and financial incentives. However, according to the General Accounting Office, the extent of the available incentives has declined in recent years, as grants to States under the section 319 program have declined by more than 30 percent from a high of about \$240 million annually in fiscal year 2004.

The section 319 program was initially authorized at \$70 million annually in fiscal year 1988, and its authorization level steadily increased to \$130 million in fiscal year 1991, the last year of authorization for this program.

Since that time, the section 319 program has continued to receive funds through the annual appropriation for EPA. In fiscal year 2021, the section 319 program received a Federal appropriation of \$177 million, and the President's fiscal year 2022 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the program to \$180 million.

H.R. 2008 would authorize \$200 million annually for the section 319 program through 2026. This would be a modest increase of the current appropriated level for this popular program, but less than the historic peak appropriation for this program in the early 2000s.

Again, I thank Ms. CRAIG and Mr. MAST for leading this bipartisan bill. This legislation passed out of committee with bipartisan support and is a good bill for a valuable program.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2008 reauthorizes the Environmental Protection Agency's section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program under the Clean Water Act.

Reauthorizing this program reinforces the Federal leadership that helps our State and local partners in their efforts to control nonpoint source pollution.

For example, my home State of North Carolina typically receives \$1 million for competitive grant funding for watershed restoration projects. This money is put to good use conducting watershed restoration projects like stormwater and agricultural best management practices and restoration of impaired streams affected by nonpoint source pollution.

In my district, some of these grant funds are being used to reduce

stormwater runoff volume on the campus of UNC-Wilmington.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2008, the Local Water Protection Act.

Madam Speaker, in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we take water quality very seriously. Not only are our lakes and waterways critical for transporting agriculture goods, but they are at the core of Minnesota's natural beauty and tourism economy.

That is why I was so proud to introduce the bipartisan Local Water Protection Act to reauthorize funding for pollution mitigation efforts in our communities.

From 1987 to 1991, Congress authorized funds each year for the Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management grants program, which provides grants to State and local governments to reduce water pollution.

Our Local Water Protection Act would reauthorize funding for this important task with \$200 million annually to help protect our lakes, rivers, and streams, and protect them for future generations.

This program would give State and local governments the authority to create locally-focused, voluntary conservation programs that are tailor-made for their own communities. And recent history in my home district demonstrates that these programs are incredibly effective.

In fact, the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently working to reduce pollutants in the Mississippi River-Lake Pepin watershed by 20 percent. And I would add, I was out there on Lake Pepin just this last weekend with some great folks.

In Wabasha County, these projects provided low-interest loans to improve residential infrastructure and help farmers come into compliance with pollution standards.

And the South Washington Watershed District integrated a stormwater reuse plan that is estimated to reduce potable water usage by more than 40 million gallons annually. There is no doubt that these programs can be effective, and there is no good reason why we shouldn't prioritize them.

As we look toward preserving our environment, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for introducing the bill with me.

Madam Speaker, thank you so much, and I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program has benefited water bodies all across the country and reauthorizing this program will reinforce this successful cooperative Federal, State, and local partnership to control nonpoint sources of pollution around the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2008.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1315

AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1921) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 121 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) ensure that the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320 is reviewed and revised in accordance with section 320 not less often than once every 5 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “recommended by a management conference convened for the Basin under section 320” and inserting “identified in the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 121(e)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(e)(1)) is amended by striking “, a 5,000 square mile”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 121(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2001 through 2012 and the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017” and inserting “2022 through 2026”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Administrator may use for administrative expenses not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1921.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1921. This legislation reauthorizes the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program for 5 years at \$20 million annually and provides for regular reporting on the progress of the program.

Some 2.1 million people live in the area surrounding Lake Pontchartrain, which is threatened by pollution related to urban and agricultural runoff, sewage overflows, and nonpoint source pollution. The Basin Restoration Program helps address these environmental challenges in a nonregulatory fashion and has made some progress. With continued funding and reauthorization, the program can continue implementing projects related to restoration.

During a Water Resources Subcommittee hearing last Congress, some implementation issues related to this program were identified. Ranking Member GRAVES and Chair DEFAZIO requested that the U.S. Government Accountability Office study the program implementation; however, those issues should not prevent us from acting on this bill today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1921, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1921, the Protect and Restore Lake Pontchartrain Basin Act, introduced by my friend GARRET GRAVES from Louisiana, would reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program to provide

assistance to the Federal, State, and local watershed partners in addressing the water quality challenges that are in this especially sensitive area.

I support the critical work these partners are doing to help restore the water quality of the lake, and this bill will help continue this work.

I commend Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member GARRET GRAVES for his leadership on this issue, and I urge support of this legislation. I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is the Aviation Subcommittee ranking member.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to talk about this important legislation.

Before I get started, I do want to thank the chair of the subcommittee, Mrs. NAPOLITANO; the ranking member, Mr. ROUZER from North Carolina; Chairman DEFAZIO; and Ranking Member SAM GRAVES as well. I do want to thank some of the other partners from Louisiana we worked with, Congressman STEVE SCALISE, former Congressman Cedric Richmond, and Congressman TROY CARTER, who all worked with us on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, Lake Pontchartrain is one of the largest saltwater lakes in the United States. It is incredibly productive. It is a productive ecosystem. There is much fishing, shrimping, and crabbing and oysters that are produced there. As a matter of fact, since 1997, over 40 million pounds of blue crabs have been produced almost annually.

The secret, Madam Speaker, if you can keep this between the two of us, is that much of that is actually headed to Maryland restaurants to improve Maryland crab cakes. That is right. Just don't tell anybody. They also put spice on the outside of the shells. It is really confusing what they do. The meat is on the inside.

But in any case, Madam Speaker, this is a huge watershed. It is about a 10,000-square-mile watershed, that comprises 16 parishes and four Mississippi counties, into this lake.

But more importantly, and why there is a Federal nexus here, is that, since the first time in 1937, they open the nearly 7,000-acre Bonnet Carre Spillway to shift water from the Mississippi River into Lake Pontchartrain and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico as an emergency pressure relief valve. You see, Madam Speaker, the Mississippi River drains 32 States and two Canadian provinces. This is one of the largest watersheds in the world, and the Mississippi River is the largest watershed in the United States.

When the water hits a certain level—again, since 1937, when they began opening this, and it has been opened an